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requested that the present class of men might be replaced by competent conveyancers.

Dewan's reply.—Government are not in a position to do anything in this matter.

24. *Police reform.*

Mr. R. Parameswaren Pillai (Member, Shertallai Taluk) spoke on the necessity for re-organizing the Police department and referred to the suffering the people were being put to by the absence of timely reforms and by the non-appointment of proper and capable officers, to the absence of qualifications for the appointment of constables, the appointment of illiterate constables as Station-House officers, the increasing number of cognizable offences and of departmental punishments, the indiscriminate arrests made by Policemen and to the perfunctoriness of the supervision exercised by the Assistant Superintendents. He said that by doing away with useless officers, the amount now being spent on the department would be sufficient to introduce the necessary changes and suggested the following reforms :— (*a*) that charge of stations should be given only to Sub-Inspectors as in Cochin and British Malabar; (*b*) that the number of Inspectors should be reduced, one Inspector being appointed to two or three Taluks; (*c*) that prompt enquiry into offences should be enforced; (*d*) that a small educational qualification should be prescribed for constables; (*e*) that only such as are of good conduct and belonged to respectable families should be appointed as officers; (*f*) that a Police Training School be opened as in Mysore; (*g*) that separate Prosecuting Inspectors be appointed; and (*h*) that rules should be passed for the proper discharge of work by all officers of the department.

Dewan's reply.—I have heard with great interest all that the member has stated about the condition of the Police department. The subject is rather a wide one and cannot be dealt with in the answer to a single question. The necessity for the early revision of the department will be borne in mind.

25. *Canals and Ferries Bill.*

Mr. N. Madhavan Valiathan (Member, Tiruvella Taluk) said that the Canals and Ferries Bill introduced into the Legislative Council was not necessary in the interests of the public. It would be detrimental to the development of agriculture and trade. In view to the fact that this country is honey-combed with rivers and canals which the people have to cross and re-cross almost every day, to levy even a small toll at every ferry would be to trench on the means of livelihood of the natives and interfere with the travelling con-

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